



MEDIA RELEASE

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Workshop Scheduled to Prepare Applications for Neighborhood Action Grants

Greenville, SC... The City of Greenville Community Development Division and the



United Way of Greenville County have formed a partnership to provide “Neighborhood Action Grants”, a grants program created to encourage revitalization efforts and leadership development in the City’s Special Emphasis Neighborhoods. A workshop to offer assistance and information on the action grants program has been scheduled for Monday July 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Allen Temple AME Church Community Development Center located at 404 Vardry Street. Residents of the eligible neighborhoods are invited to attend the workshop.

Fifteen neighborhoods are included in the list of special emphasis neighborhoods – low to moderate income neighborhoods targeted by the City for assistance in redevelopment and revitalization efforts. These neighborhoods are: Dean/Sullivan, Otis-Wilkins, Green Avenue, Southernside, Pleasant Valley, Greenline-Spartantburg, Viola, Bruton Town, West Greenville, West End, Payne-Logan, Haynie-Sirriner, Arcadia Hills, Nicholtown and Hospital/Sterling.

According to Rodney Tucker, City Community Development, the workshop is expected to draw a large number of hopeful applicants. “The workshop is not mandatory. However, our applicants find it beneficial to attend,” he says. “At the workshop we’ll

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walk each applicant through the grant writing process to make sure they meet eligibility requirements.”

Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$1,000 from United Way and up to \$1,500 from City of Greenville Community Development. All projects must involve neighborhood improvement objectives. “The funding criteria are different for United Way and the City of Greenville. However, groups can apply for funding from both agencies where it’s appropriate. In this way, they can maximize their opportunities for funding,” Tucker explains.

Suggested ideas for neighborhood projects include beautification efforts such as neighborhood clean ups or community gardens; youth-related programs that involve tutoring or camp sponsorships; newsletters and neighborhood festivals; and safety programs such as workshops in home security and self-defense.

According to United Way’s Neighborhood Development Director Hannah Eigerman, even simple projects can have a big impact. “These projects can definitely help improve neighborhoods,” Eigerman says, “but we’re looking beyond these projects to see how neighborhood residents can work together planning and executing tasks in the service of a common goal. The ultimate aim of Action Grants is to make neighborhoods stronger by encouraging people to work together.”

The deadline for application for the 2003-04 grant period is August 15, 2003. Funding awards will be announced on September 15, 2003. All interested groups are encouraged to attend the July 21st workshop. For more information, contact the City of Greenville Community Development Division at 467-4570.

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